

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace the present title with the following amended title:

Apparatus for carbamate decomposition and ammonia and carbon dioxide stripping from urea solutions capable of 180.degree inversion about a horizontal axis.

Please replace the paragraph no. 4 on page 3 with the following amended paragraph:

Special materials have been studied in order to ~~realise~~realize such an apparatus and to limit this corrosion phenomenon. To date, though, it is not possible to eliminate the corrosion.

Please replace the paragraph no. 2 on page 4 with the following amended paragraph:

Based upon this idea, the aforesaid technical problem is solved by an apparatus of the above-indicated type and defined by the ~~characterising part of claim 1~~claims, attached hereto.

Please replace the paragraph no. 3 on page 4 with the following amended paragraph:

The invention relates moreover to a method for increasing the service life of an apparatus for carbamate decomposition and unreacted ammonia and carbon dioxide stripping from aqueous urea solutions ~~according to claim 8.~~

Please replace the paragraph no. 5 on page 4 (bridging pages 4 and 5) with the following amended paragraph:

In such drawings:

Brief description of the drawings

- figure 1 shows a schematic view of an apparatus according to the invention in a first condition of use, for carbamate stripping from urea aqueous solutions.
- figure 2 shows a schematic view of the apparatus of figure 1 in a second condition of use.
- figure 3 shows a schematic view of a detail of the apparatus of figure 1;
- ~~figures~~figure 4A shows a schematic view from above and figures 4B and 4C respective schematic side views of the detail of figure 3;
- figure 5 shows a perspective view of the apparatus of figure 1.

Please replace the paragraph no. 7 on page 9 (bridging pages 9 and 10) with the following amended paragraph:

The CO₂ used as stripping agent is introduced in the bottom A of stripper 2 through a nozzle N1 formed in the cylindrical portion of said bottom. Nozzle N1 is connected through the duct 10 to the CO₂ distributor located inside the lower bottom A and inserted in the fluid distribution box 8.

Please replace the paragraph no. 1 on page 11 with the following amended

paragraph:

In view of this description and figure 2, it is clear that, following an arrangement rotated by 180° of stripper 12 with respect to the condition of use of figure 1, nozzle N2 can be converted into nozzle N4 by simply changing the inner connections. The nozzle indicated with N3 can in turn be again employed as nozzle N1. The same applies for the other pairs of nozzles: N5/N14, N6/N11, N7/N8, N9B/N9A and N10B/N10A. To this purpose, the orientation of such nozzles is such that, after the overturning has taken place, their flanges can be connected to the corresponding feeding/discharge lines remained fixed.